

Lt. Simeon Wheelock House  
Uxbridge, Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-412

HABS  
MASS

14- UXBRI

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank Chouteau Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

ADDENDUM TO  
LIEUT. SIMEON WHEELOCK HOUSE  
N. Main Street  
Uxbridge  
Worcester County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-412

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
*ADDENDUM TO:*  
LIEUTENANT SIMEON WHEELOCK HOUSE

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Location: North Main Street, Uxbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts.

Significance: Lieutenant Simeon Wheelock's house stands as an example of vernacular architecture; it is also one of Uxbridge's most well preserved eighteenth-century structures.

Description: Described as a "Cape Cod Cottage," the Wheelock house represents an Uxbridge vernacular building tradition. The house follows a central chimney plan. It is one story tall. True to the "Cape Cod" house type, its exterior fabric is clapboard. The foundation is split granite; the house terminates in a pitched roof. The elevations are asymmetrical. The fenestration of the south front consists of an entrance and four windows, two per side of the door. The windows are nine-over-nine sash. The window frames project slightly and butt into the cornice line. The six panel door is capped by a transom, and is placed west of center in the facade. The east facade also has a six panel door with transom. This door appears on the north side of the facade; the center and south side of the east front are marked by windows, again of nine-over-nine sash. Above is a single window, also of nine-over-nine sash. The other gable end, the west side, has a six panel door with a five light transom. Pilasters flank the entry and extend up into a pediment, that has dentil molding. This entrance is centrally located in the facade and is flanked by two windows. Above the door is one window; all three window openings are nine-over-nine sash. The north wall is pierced by four windows, unequally spaced, containing nine-over-nine sash.

The structure was built in 1768, altered in 1789-1790, and restored in 1911.

History: Construction of a meeting house, in 1729, along the main route between Worcester and Providence marks the beginning of the entity, known as the Uxbridge Common District. The Common District served as Uxbridge's residential and civic center in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The Common District structures represent the mercantile, industrial, and institutional development of Uxbridge.

In the Common District, Simeon Wheelock built his dwelling house around 1768-69, after purchasing the land from John Harwood in 1768. A blacksmith by trade, Wheelock built a shop near the present Uxbridge Academy. From 1773-77, Wheelock acted as town clerk and proceeded from his civic duty to join the Revolutionary War effort. Wheelock continued to serve his country by joining government forces sent to quell Shay's Rebellion. He died in Springfield from injuries sustained descending Arsenal Hill in icy conditions. He left eight progeny. Of these off-spring, Jerry Wheelock influenced Uxbridge through his activities in its textile industry.

Before his death, Wheelock sold his house to a fellow blacksmith, Royal Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson and his heirs owned the property throughout the nineteenth century. They rented it to Elihu Brown, also a blacksmith, for part of that time. Mr. and Mrs. William Hayward bought the house in the early twentieth century; they bequeathed it to the Deborah Wheelock Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1910.

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(page 2)

Sources:

Historic Buildings of Massachusetts. edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.

Inventory Form, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1981. (Contributing structure to the Uxbridge Common District).